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EXAMINER

WANG, KENT F

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2622

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10/22/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,247

Applicant(s)

JEON, IL-JOONG

Examiner

Kent Wang

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendments, filed on 08/15/2007, have been entered and made of record. Claim 11 has been cancelled. Claims 1-10 and 12-15 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 and 12-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the interpretation of the original cited references.
 - The applicant argues that Noro et al. does not disclose an image signal corresponding to an image acquired by the zoom lens set to the wide angle mode to a personal computer as in claim 2 in combination with the features of claim 1. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Noro discloses a method further comprising: providing an image signal corresponding to an image acquired by the zoom lens set to the wide-angle mode to the personal computer through the interface ([0072]).
 - The applicant argues that Noro et al. further fails to disclose the step of releasing a setting of the wide angle mode if the personal computer is disconnected from the interface as in claim 8. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Noro discloses the method further comprising: releasing a setting of the wide-angle mode if the personal computer is disconnected from the

interface (window 60 has button for instructing the image sensing directions and zoom ratios, including wide-angle, of specific objects to be sensed by the camera [0072]).

- The applicant argues that Hata does not disclose or suggest a portable composite device having a control unit for converting an electrical signal output from the image pickup unit into digital data and generating a mode signal for selecting either data stored in the storage medium as in claim 10. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Hata discloses a control unit (control section 13, Fig 2) for converting the electric signal output from the image pickup unit into digital data ([0034]).
- The applicant argues that Hata does not disclose the switching unit for outputting the digital data stored in the storage medium in a first logic level and outputting the digital data corresponding to the electrical signal in a second logic level as in claim 14 or the storage medium having a hard disk drive as in claim 15 in combination with the features of claim 10. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Hata discloses a switching unit (server processing unit 21, Fig 2) and a storage medium is a hard disc drive (hard disk 102, Fig 8A) ([0031], [0051], Hata).
- The applicant argues that there is no suggestion in Takeuchi of setting a lens to a specific mode and no suggestion of setting a lens to a wide-angle mode by setting a color temperature of the image signal to a specified color temperature as recited in claim 3. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Noro disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle

mode ([0072], Noro) and Takeuchi discloses the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode comprises setting a color temperature of the image signal to a specified color temperature ([0089], Takeuchi).

- The applicant argues that Yoneyama does not provide the deficiencies of Noro et al. and does not disclose or suggest a method of setting a lens to a wide angle mode to a preset value based on the setting of the web camera mode as claimed. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Noro disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode and Yoneyama discloses the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode comprises driving the zoom lens in wide-angle mode by adjusting a focal distance of the zoom lens (col. 5, lines 60-67, Yoneyama). Thus, the combination of Noro et al. and Yoneyama does render claim 5 obvious to one skilled in the art.
- The applicant argues that Yoneyama further fails to disclose or suggest setting the focal distance of a zoom lens to a preset distance based on a preset web camera mode of a portable composite device as in claim 6. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Noro disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode and Yoneyama discloses the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode further comprises setting the focal distance of the zoom lens to a specified distance (an optimum value) (col. 5, lines 63-67, Yoneyama). Thus claim 6 is obvious over the combination of Noro et al. and Yoneyama.
- The applicant argues that Yoshikawa et al. does not disclose or suggest setting a focal distance of a lens based on a selected web camera mode by calculating the distance

difference between the zoom lens and an object based on a preset value and compensating for the focal distance according to the calculated difference. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Noro and Yoneyama disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode. Yoshikawa discloses the step of setting the focal distance to the specified distance comprises calculating a distance difference between the zoom lens (zoom lens optical system 9) and an object based on a preset value (preset value "B"), and compensating for the focal distance of the zoom lens according to the calculated distance difference (CPU 6 multiplies the preset value calculated in step 401 [0073]; and CPU 6 sets and holds the calculated preset value [0074], Yoshikawa). Thus claim 7 is obvious over the combination of Noro et al., Yoneyama, and Yoshikawa.

- The applicant argues that the combination of Hata and Yoshikawa et al. does not disclose or suggest a control unit for setting a position of a zoom lens to a wide angle mode to a preset value in response an external control signal from a personal computer and the combination of Hata and Yoshikawa et al. further fails to disclose a switching unit for switching and transmitting either the digital data from the storage medium or the digital data corresponding to the electric signal in response to the mode selection of the control unit as in claim 10. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Hata discloses a portable composite device comprising an image acquisition unit, an NTSC/PAL decoder, a storage medium, an NTSC/PAL encoder, a control unit, and a switching unit. Yoshikawa discloses the control unit (CPU 6, Fig 1) sets a position of the zoom lens (initial setting, step 201, Fig 4)

included in the image pickup unit to a wide-angle mode on the basis of a preset value (preset value "B") in response to an external control signal ([0060], Yoshikawa).

- The applicant argues that there is no suggestion of a control unit making the digital data correspond to an electrical signal having preset color temperature value in response to an external control signal as in claim 12. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Hata disclose a portable composite device comprises a control unit and Takeuchi discloses a control unit (AWB calculating device 220, Fig 1) makes the digital data corresponding to the electric signal have a preset color temperature value (reference preset white balance control values) in response to the external control signal (adjustment calculating device 241(1) to 241(N)) ([0080]-[0081], and Fig 2A, Takeuchi). Thus claim 12 is obvious over the combination of Hata and Takeuchi.
- The applicant argues that Sugiki either alone or in combination with Takeuchi and Hata do not suggest a color temperature of 4500 °K as preset color temperature value in response to an external control signal setting a position of a lens to a wide angle in response to wide angle mode selection as in claim 13. The examiner understands the applicant's arguments but respectfully disagrees with the applicant's assessment. Hata discloses a portable composite device comprising an image acquisition unit, an NTSC/PAL decoder, a storage medium, an NTSC/PAL encoder, a control unit, and a switching unit. Takeuchi does teaches an auto white balance control processing to adjust the optimal color temperature ([0080], [0092], Takeuchi), it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to automatically adjusting the digital data corresponding to the

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electric signal have a preset color temperature value in response to the external control signal. Thus claim 13 is obvious over the combination of Hata and Takeuchi.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1, 2, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Noro, US 2002/0135677.

Regarding claim 1, Noro discloses a method of setting a web camera mode for a portable composite device (camera 16, Fig 5) having an interface connectable (an interface 36, Fig 5) with a personal computer (camera management device 12, Fig 5) and a zoom lens (zoom function [0011]), the method comprising:

- determining whether the present mode of the portable composite device (camera 16) is set in a web camera mode in which the personal computer (camera management device 12) is connected to the interface and the device is used as a web camera (the operation manager 48 detects the already connected camera) (see [0084] and step S11 of Fig 9); and
- setting the zoom lens to a wide-angle mode on the basis of a preset value (the camera console window 60 has pan button 62 and 64 for instructing the direction and a home button 70 for returning to a predetermined position) if the present mode is in the web camera mode (see [0072]).

Regarding claim 2, Noro discloses a method further comprising: providing an image signal corresponding to an image acquired by the zoom lens set to the wide-angle mode to the personal computer through the interface (the camera 16 is instructed via the camera interface 36 to have the target pan and tilt angles and zoom ratio read from the camera 16 via the interface 36 and compared with the target values; see [0099] and [0100]).

Regarding claim 8, Noro discloses the method further comprising: releasing a setting of the wide-angle mode (window 60 has button for instructing the image sensing directions and zoom ratios, including wide-angle, of specific objects to be sensed by the camera [0072], Fig 6) if the personal computer is disconnected from the interface (if none of cameras are connected, the flow advances to ending the processing) (see [0084] and Fig 9).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noro in view of Takeuchi, US 2003/0112342.

Regarding claim 3, Noro disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode. Noro does not does not explicitly disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode comprises setting a color temperature of the image signal to a specified color temperature.

Takeuchi discloses the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode comprises setting a color temperature of the image signal to a specified color temperature (basis of reference control value as preset white balance control value) ([0089], Takeuchi).

Noro and Takeuchi are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art to use Takeuchi's preset color temperature in Noro's method of setting a color temperature. The suggestion/motivation would have been to obtain the results of picking up an achromatic object by a reference digital camera with light sources having different color temperatures, thereby when the reference image data obtained by picking up a light source having an arbitrarily set and fixed color temperature by the reference digital camera ([0089], Takeuchi).

Regarding claim 4, Takeuchi discloses the step of setting the color temperature comprises:

- calculating a color temperature difference between the preset color temperature (reference image data d220, Fig 2A) and a color temperature of the image signal (adjustment image data d221, Fig 2A); and
- compensating for the preset color temperature (preset white balance control values) according to the calculated color temperature difference (calculate control values d213(1) to d213(N) by executing calculation processing) (see [0089] and Fig 2A, Takeuchi).

6. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noro in view of Yoneyama, US 5,570,235.

Regarding claim 5, Noro disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode. Noro does not does not explicitly disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the

wide-angle mode comprises driving the zoom lens in the wide-angle mode by adjusting a focal distance of the zoom lens.

Yoneyama discloses the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode comprises driving the zoom lens in the wide-angle mode by adjusting a focal distance of the zoom lens (col. 5, lines 60-67, Yoneyama).

Noro and Yoneyama are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art to use Yoneyama's focal distance adjustment in Noro's method of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode. The suggestion/motivation would have been to optimize the focal distance values, thereby satisfies the relationship in connection with the focal length of the entire lens system at wide-angle extremity (col. 5, lines 60-67, Yoneyama).

Regarding claim 6, Yoneyama discloses the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode further comprises setting the focal distance of the zoom lens to a specified distance (an optimum value) (col. 5, lines 63-67, Yoneyama).

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noro in view of Yoneyama, and further in view of Yoshikawa, US 2001/0040638.

Regarding claim 7, Noro and Yoneyama disclose the step of setting the zoom lens to the wide-angle mode.

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Noro and Yoneyama do not does not explicitly disclose the step of setting the focal distance to the specified distance comprises: calculating a distance difference between the zoom lens and an object based on a preset value.

Yoshikawa discloses the step of setting the focal distance to the specified distance comprises calculating a distance difference between the zoom lens (zoom lens optical system 9) and an object based on a preset value (preset value "B"), and compensating for the focal distance of the zoom lens according to the calculated distance difference (CPU 6 multiplies the preset value calculated in step 401 [0073]; and CPU 6 sets and holds the calculated preset value [0074], Yoshikawa).

Noro, Yoneyama, and Yoshikawa are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of setting the focal distance to the specified distance. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art to use Yoshikawa's focal distance calculation in Noro and Yoneyama's method of setting the focal distance to the specified distance. The suggestion/motivation would have been when the zoom switch is operated toward the telephoto direction during preset drive control operation the preset value can be changed to the high-velocity side by an amount proportional to the operation amount, thereby when the zoom switch is operated toward the wide-angle direction the preset value can be changed to the low-velocity side ([0075], Yoshikawa).

8. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noro in view of Hata, US 2001/0017653.

Regarding claim 9, Noro disclose the method of setting a web camera mode for a portable composite device. Noro does not does not explicitly disclose the determining step comprises determining whether the portable composite device is used in a mass storage mode for setting the device to a mobile storage device.

Hata discloses the step the determining step comprises:

- determining (step S4 of Fig 3) whether the portable composite device (i.e. digital video camera 1) is used in a mass storage mode (step S9 of Fig 3) for setting the device to a mobile storage device ([0034], Hata); and
- transmitting video/audio data stored in the portable composite device to the personal computer through the interface (i.e. IEEE 1394 interface 20) if the device is used in the mass storage mode ([0031], [0034] and Fig 3, Hata).

Noro and Hata are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of setting a camera mode for a portable composite device. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art to use Hata's setting mode in Noro's method of setting a camera mode for a portable composite device. The suggestion/motivation would have been to enable the recording and playback section 14 plays back the digital video data recorded in the cassette tape 15 and outputs it to the IP packet assembling and disassembling section 19 under the control of the control section 13 ([0034], Hata).

9. Claims 10 and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata (US 2001/0017653) in view of Yoshikawa (US 2001/0040638).

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Regarding claim 10, Hata discloses a portable composite device comprising:

- an image acquisition unit (an image capturing section 11, Fig 2) for performing a photoelectric conversion of an optical image taken through a zoom lens and outputting a corresponding electric signal ([0024] and Fig 2, Hata);
- an NTSC/PAL decoder (digital video decoder 16, Fig 2) for converting a standard television signal into digital data to output the digital data ([0025] and Fig 2, Hata);
- a storage medium (a storage section 22, Fig 2) for storing the digital data ([0027] and Fig 2, Hata);
- an NTSC/PAL encoder (DV encoder 12, Fig 2) for converting an input digital data into a standard television signal to output the television signal ([0032] and Fig 2, Hata);
- a control unit (control section 13, Fig 2) for converting the electric signal output from the image pickup unit into digital data, compressing and storing in the storage medium the converted digital data and the data output from the NTSC/PAL decoder, and generating a mode selection signal for selecting either the data stored in the storage medium or the digital data corresponding to the electric signal outputted from the image pickup unit (determined in step S4 that the moving image data for which transmission has been requested is recorded moving image data, the process proceeds to step S9. In step S9, the recording and playback section 14 plays back the CV data recorded in the DV

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- cassette 14 plays back the DV data recorded in the DV cassette tape 15 and outputs it to the IP packet assembling/disassembling section 19 under the control of the control section 13) ([0034] and Fig 3, Hata); and
- a switching unit (WWW server processing section 21, Fig 2) for switching and transmitting either the digital data stored in the storage medium or the digital data corresponding to the electric signal, to a serial port through a serial interface, in response to the mode selection signal (determines whether the moving image data for which transmission has been requested is real-time moving image data or recorded moving image data; [0031] and S4 of Fig 3, Hata).

Hata does not explicitly disclose a control unit sets a position of the zoom lens included in the image pickup unit to a wide-angle mode on the basis of a preset value in response to an external control signal.

Yoshikawa discloses the control unit (CPU 6, Fig 1) sets a position of the zoom lens (initial setting, step 201, Fig 4) included in the image pickup unit to a wide-angle mode on the basis of a preset value (preset value "B") in response to an external control signal ([0060], Yoshikawa).

Hata and Yoshikawa are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of setting a camera mode for a portable composite device. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art to use Yoshikawa's control unit in Hata's image capturing apparatus. The suggestion/motivation would have been to generate a predetermined zoom driving velocity such as a maximum velocity and a

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preset zoom driving direction such as a wide-angle direction which is stored in the memory unit ([0060], Yoshikawa).

Regarding claim 14, Hata discloses the switching unit (WWW server processing section 21, Fig 2) outputs the digital data stored in the storage medium (storage section 22, Fig 2) to the serial port through the serial interface (IEEE 1394 interface 20, Fig 2) when the mode control signal is in a first logic level (recorded image read from DV cassette tape), and outputs the digital data corresponding to the electric signal to the serial port through the serial interface (IEEE 1394 interface 20) when the mode control signal is in a second logic level (real-time image from capture image) ([0031], [0034] and Fig 3, Hata).

Regarding claim 15, Hata discloses the storage medium is a hard disc drive (hard disk 102, Fig 8A) ([0051], Hata).

10. Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hata in view of Takeuchi, US 2003/0112342.

Regarding claim 12, Hata disclose a portable composite device comprises a control unit. Hata does not explicitly disclose a control unit makes the digital data corresponding to the electric signal have a preset color temperature value in response to the external control signal.

Takeuchi discloses a control unit (AWB calculating device 220, Fig 1) makes the digital data corresponding to the electric signal have a preset color temperature value (reference preset white balance control values) in response to the external control signal (adjustment calculating device 241(1) to 241(N)) ([0080]-[0081], and Fig 2A, Takeuchi).

Hata and Takeuchi are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor of setting a camera mode for a portable composite device. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art to use Takeuchi's control unit in Hata's image capturing apparatus. The suggestion/motivation would have been to enable the calculation of a plurality of control values used for white balance control processing, thereby to control values for color components corresponding to color temperature ([0080], Takeuchi).

Regarding claim 13, the limitations of claim 12 are taught above, and although the Takeuchi reference does not specifically that the color temperature value is at or about 4500 degree K, Takeuchi does teach that an adjustment calculating devices (241(1)-241(N), Fig 2A) calculate the WB control values (d213(1)-d213(N), Fig 2A) serving as white balance control values corresponding to the color temperatures of various light sources which irradiate an object to be picked up ([0092], Takeuchi). Because Takeuchi teaches an auto white balance control processing to adjust the optimal color temperature ([0080], [0092], Takeuchi), it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to automatically adjusting the digital data corresponding to the electric signal have a preset color temperature value in response to the external control signal.

Inquiries

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kent Wang whose telephone number is 571-270-1703. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

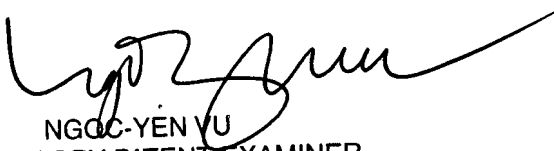
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ngoc Yen Vu can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-270-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KW

9 October 2007


NGOC-YEN VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER